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ENG M61-107

Chief, Procurement Division, OL
ATTN : Contracting Officer

Chief, Engineering Staff, OC

1961 FEB 12

Contract 051-1045-9, Task Order 36-1340-0

1. Under the terms of the subject contract (with [redacted]) a quantity of 23 each AN/A-42 antennas were fabricated at a total fixed price cost of \$11,960.00. All antennas are presently located at the R+D Laboratory where they are being calibrated and being prepared for transmittal to warehouse stock prior to issue to the field.

2. The laboratory personnel doing the calibration work indicated that the workmanship exhibited in the construction/fabrication of the antennas is of poor quality. These comments on the poor workmanship are listed in Attachment A entitled "Comments on Construction of AN/A-42 Antennas." In order to expedite placing these antennas in the warehouse stock a decision was made to rework the antennas at the laboratory.

3. Since the contractor has complied with the contractual obligation regarding delivery of 23 antennas, a request is hereby made to terminate this task. However, it is suggested that the contracting officer formally advise the contractor of the poor performance of his technical personnel under this task.

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Attachment:

Attachment A - Comments on
Construction of AN/A-42 Antennas

Distribution:

- Orig. + 1 - Addressee w/attach.
- 1 - R+D Subject File w/attach.
- 1 - R+D Lab w/attach.
- 1 - OC-E Chronow/attach.
- 1 - EP Chrono w/attach.

OC-E/R+D-EP/RME:maf (16 Feb. 61)

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ATTACHMENT A

Comments on Construction of AN/A-42 Antennas

- a) The threads for making the mast connections have not been deburred properly . . . if at all.
- b) Locking pins designed to hold a locking bushing securely to threaded sections of the antenna assembly are seated in the holes very loosely. In fact when one of the antennas was erected prior to calibration, the antenna collapsed.
- c) The fiber glass loading coil assembly, as far as can be determined, has never been finished properly. A resin which was applied over the fiber glass section was applied in a most sloppy manner. In addition sharp, jagged edges of the fiber glass protrude at the ends of the loading coil and are not covered by any protective tape as described by GFE drawings. Obviously, the sharp protruding fiber glass edges create a hazard for anyone who must assemble these antennas.
- d) When the protective resin was applied over the fiber glass, it has slopped over various sections of the antenna such as a band switch mechanism (pivot/shorting bar) thus grounding the band switch and also over the top hat clamp section locking mechanism.
- e) The method of applying the resin over the fiber glass loading coil used by the Government was to spin the loading coil on a lathe, however, it appears that the contractor used a different method which effected poor results.
- f) After delivery of (4) AN/A-42's on an expedited basis early during the fabrication of these antennas, the Government engineers, on a visit to the contractor's plant, noted that the fiber glass loading coils were wound very loosely thus making it impossible to calibrate the antennas properly. As a result, corrective action was taken by

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